



Inspiring Americans to Protect Wildlife for our Children's Future



EXHIBIT 13  
DATE 1.25.13  
HB HJR

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HJR 8  
THOMAS FRANCE, NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
JANAURY 25, 2013

Members of the Committee, I am Thomas France, Senior Director for Western Wildlife Conservation for the National Wildlife Federation. I am here opposing adoption of HRJ 8, which calls on Congress to kill the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act, which was introduced by Montana Senator Jon Tester in the last Congress and which he will reintroduce again within the next few days.

I would like to challenge each member of this Committee to read FJRA before voting on this bill. I ask that you read the bill as legislators. If you do take the time to read the bill, I think you will better appreciate the thought that went into FJRA, and the balance that it represents. If you read the bill I'm also sure you will find sections that you like and support, regardless of whether you are for wilderness or against, or for or against more logging on Montana's national forests. Certainly, you may want to improve or strengthen some of the language you find, but as you consider what you might write, I think you will better realize that FJRA is the result of years of give and take and that the language of the bill is the result careful compromise and keen appreciation of what might pass the Congress.

Reading the bill will, I hope, give you context within which to make a decision on HJR 8. If you decide to vote for the resolution, do so in recognition of the fact that you will be rejecting years of work by many Montanans to find compromise and balance in moving forest management forward. The first discussions between the timber industry and the conservation community that led to FJRA started in 2005 and have continued ever since. Many of these conversations have been difficult and some of the decisions very hard. But through diligence and an understanding of forest management born out of years of experience, compromises, good compromises have been found. A vote for HJR 8 will ignore this work and ignore the expertise and good will that achieved a significant piece of legislation.

Voting for HJR 8 is also a vote for continued gridlock on Montana's forest. All of us who worked on HJR 8 knew we could battle one another to draw. After all, we had done just that for a couple of decades. Rather than continue the fight and gridlock that in produced, we thought writing a bill that sought middle ground and forward motion was a much better alternative. If HJR passes, and if FJRA is defeated, there are some certain outcomes, the first and most relevant being that gridlock will continue. There are no alternative bills waiting to be passed. There are no proposals for different approaches that stand chance of passing the present divided Congress. FJRA itself was only written after years of work. The bill has been introduced in the last two Congresses but has yet to pass, in part because passing a bill is a painfully slow process. A vote for HJR 8 is a vote for the status quo.

I believe passage of FJRA will lead to further agreement and further compromise between the conservation community and the timber industry. The result of this collaboration will be more jobs in Montana's timber communities, better management of Montana's forests, and protection of some of Montana's most cherished landscapes. If this is a future you seek for Montana, then I would urge you to vote against HJR 8.

Thank you.

# LET'S GET OUR FORESTS WORKING AGAIN. LET'S PASS THE FOREST JOBS AND RECREATION ACT.

American Rivers  
Bob Marshall Wilderness Outfitters  
Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Bitter Root Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Clearwater Resource Council of Seeley Lake, MT  
Flathead Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Greater Yellowstone Coalition  
Yellowstone Central Labor Council  
Hellgate Hunters and Anglers  
Helena Hunters and Anglers  
Joe Brooks Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Lewis and Clark Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Magic City Fly Fishers  
Montana AFL-CIO  
Montana Backcountry Horsemen  
Montana Backcountry Hunters and Anglers  
Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund  
Missoula Central Labor Council  
MEA-MFT  
Montana Wildlife Federation  
Montana Trout Unlimited  
Montana Wilderness Association  
Montanans for Quiet Recreation

National Trout Unlimited  
National Wildlife Federation  
Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc.  
Roseburg Forest Products, Inc.  
Snowy Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Southwest Montana Central Labor Council  
Sun Mountain Lumber, Inc.  
West Slope Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
The Wilderness Society  
Linehan Outfitting Company  
Hirst & Associates of Libby  
Yaak Valley Forest Council  
Rich Ranch Outfitting and Guest Ranch  
MONTANA HIGH DIVIDE TRAILS  
Highlands Cycling Club of Butte  
Mile-High Back Country Horsemen  
Helena Bicycle Club  
Wild Divide Chapter of the Montana Wilderness Association  
Last Chance Back Country Horsemen  
Prickly Pear Land Trust  
Great Divide Cycling Team  
Helena Trail Riders  
Helena Outdoor Club

**We respectfully ask U.S. Representative Denny Rehberg to stop opposing Senator Jon Tester's Forest Jobs and Recreation Act.** For the last five years, Montanans from all walks of life have joined together to help pass legislation to get our forests working again. We helped craft Senator Tester's bill. Now, Montana businesspeople, loggers, millworkers, union members, hunters, anglers, snowmobilers, hikers, teachers, county commissioners and thousands of everyday Montanans urge Congressman Rehberg to join our team. Let's get Montanans back to work in the woods and let's protect our key hunting and fishing areas. Let's pass the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act.

**Montana  
Forests.org**